

REMARKS

Claims 18, 52, 58-60, 62, 67, 86, 87, 89-95, and 97 are pending in the present application.

Claims 18, 58-60, 62, 67, 91-93, and 97 are allowed. Claims 86, 87, 89, 90, and 94 have objections based on claim informalities. Claim 52 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e).

Claim 52 has been canceled. Claims 86, 87, 89, 90, and 94 have been amended to satisfy the Examiner's statements regarding informalities. Applicants believe, therefore, that claims 18, 58-60, 62, 67, 86, 87, 89-95, and 97 are now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2004. Claims 18, 58-60, 62, 67, 86, 87, 89-95, and 97 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with all claims being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 14 independent claims. Because Applicants have previously paid for 98 total claims and 17 independent claims, Applicants submit that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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on August 26, 2004.


Faye Ropski